

# ANN LANDERS



## Today Is Christmas

(Thirteen years ago—the year Ann Landers began writing this column — she produced a special essay for Christmas Day. Reader response was extremely high and she has repeated the column annually, with topical modification. This is her Christmas message for 1968.)

Today is Christmas. All about us we hear talk of peace on Earth, good will toward men. Yet we know, to our sorrow, that there is no peace and in the hearts of many men, there is no good will.

A defeatist philosophy has threatened to capture our young people. They complain that civilization is out of joint. They threaten to resign from the human race. They resent having to live in a dangerous and untidy world they never made. But what generation ever made the world it had to live in?

These are difficult times in which to live despite "progress" on every side. Everything is pasteurized, homogenized, pressurized and psychoanalyzed. But what progress have we made? Is it progress to spend billions of dollars on missiles while children in many parts of the world go to bed hungry? Is it progress when thermonuclear and biological war threatens to hunt down man wherever he is — to infect him, suffocate him or incinerate him?

This is the age of transition, the big cop-out, the unwashed and the undressed. The blurring of the sexes. Young rebels spit in the face of conformity and stare us down with eyes like hypodermic needles. Some fear we are heading toward social decay—going the way of the Romans and the Babylonians. Others applaud the "new morality" and rejoice at the demise of "phony puritanism." They herald the sex revolution as symptomatic of a maturing society which will encourage creativity and promote better mental health.

Hippies are searching for drugs to "expand their minds" when in reality, they have merely opted to anesthetize themselves against the pain of growing up and accepting responsibility. They blame The Establishment for their anxiety and inability to meet the challenge when the central problem lies within themselves.

This raises some serious questions for which there are no easy answers. In the words of the late David Neiswander of the Menninger Foundation: "If each of us can be helped by science to live a hundred years, what will it profit us if our hates and fears, our loneliness and our remorse will not permit us to enjoy them? Of what use is an extra year or two to the man who kills what time he has?"

Each day, we make a series of small decisions. These decisions determine the direction in which our lives will move. No one, irrespective of how wise he is, how highly principled or how experienced, can make the right decision every time. To err or fail is no disgrace. The disgrace lies in not learning from our mistakes—not recovering from our defeats—not getting up to try again.

Since this a problem column, I hear more about failure than I hear about victory. Does this depress me? No, it does not. After 13 years I still find this work immensely rewarding. I realize that many people who write to me don't seek advice, they merely want someone to listen. I am fortunate to have been given this opportunity to listen and to help. For there is no greater satisfaction than to serve. And with God's help I will continue to do my best. ANN LANDERS.

Ann Landers' new book, "Truth Is Stranger . . ." shares secrets of her practical philosophy. \$4.95 at bookstores.

Ann Landers will be glad to help you with your problems. Send them to her in care of the Press-Herald, enclosing a stamped, self-addressed envelope.

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## Carson Man Injured in Explosion

A Carson man is in serious condition with burns over 50 per cent of his body following an explosion Sunday at 5:30 p.m. at the Texaco Oil Refinery in Wilmington.

Injured was Raymond Danes, 35, of 278 E. 214th St. Firemen said an explosion in a cracking tower touched off a flash fire and loosed deadly ammonia fumes. Damage was estimated at \$40,000.



**SALVATION ARMY HONORED**—Named as Citizens of the Month for December, the Salvation Army was represented by Capt. Thomas E. Elliott (left) of the Redondo Beach Corps at a luncheon meeting of the Redondo Beach Kiwanis at which the award, sponsored by Great Lakes Properties, Inc., was presented. Judge Raymond Choate, who is one of the judges of the program, made the presentation.

## First Aid Classes Scheduled

Every 10 minutes two persons are killed and more than 200 injured in accidents, according to Ruth Morgan, safety programs chairman for Southern Los Angeles communities.

"These are frightening statistics but ones that can be changed with a knowledge of accident prevention and first aid," said Miss Morgan. "And Red Cross wants to make this knowledge available through free first aid courses offered regularly in this area."

"Many schools and industries now include Red Cross first aid training in their regular programs," she continued. "But last year alone there were 4,300,000 home accidents that might have been prevented if those involved had known what to do."

"HOMEMAKERS who want to protect themselves and their families against accidental death or injury may do so by enrolling in one of two Red Cross Standard first aid courses to be offered here beginning Jan. 2," Miss Morgan said.

The first course will be held at the Red Cross Service Center, 1499 W. 1st St., San Pedro, Thursday, Jan. 2, from 7 to 9:30 p.m.

A second class will begin Jan. 6 and will be held at the Vista Grande Elementary School, 7032 Purpleridge Road, Palos Verdes, from 7 to 9:30 p.m.

Last year over 2,000 Harbor area residents completed Red Cross first aid classes.

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## Garrett To Build New Plant

The Garrett Corp., one of the Signal Companies, has announced formation of a new Garrett Micro-Circuits Corp., to be headquartered in Torrance.

The new firm will be a major manufacturer in the electronics field, a Garrett Corp. spokesman said.

Present plans call for a facility containing some 50,000 square feet of space on the company's 117-acre site at Van Ness and Western Avenues, immediately north of the U.S. Steel Torrance Works.

Recruiting will begin at once for employees for the new facility. It is expected that the company will employ 400 persons within three to five years.

## Permanent Status for Ft. M'Arthur Sought

Supervisor Kenneth Hahn has urged Congress to designate Fort MacArthur as a permanent military installation.

Hahn pointed out that although it was established in 1914, Fort MacArthur is subject to losing some of its property to private and public agencies unless it has a permanent status.

## Man Holds Up Small Market

A well-groomed man with a mustache held up the Stop 'n' Go Market at 3822 Lomita Blvd. Saturday night, forcing owner Philip F. Hand to give him \$116 from the cash register.

The suspect was described as 6 feet tall, about 30, and carrying a gun in his left hand.

## Mink Stolen

A waist-length mink coat, valued at \$1,500 was stolen sometime Friday from the home of Jane Berkholz, 30, of 16625 S. Crenshaw Blvd.

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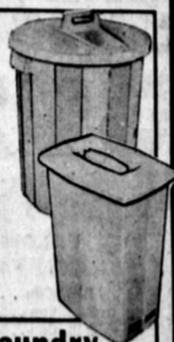
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